

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0894

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NO

SUBJ: EXPOSE OF NORWAY'S ACQUISITION OF LORAN AND OMEGA
SYSTEMS

REFS: (A) STATE 031369, (B) STATE 030402, (C) OSLO 0591
(D) OSLO 00566, (E) OSLO 00548, (F) STATE 045667

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND
MARCH 1, I RAISED QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF
LORAN C AND OMEGA ISSUE. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT
WHILE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN HOPING ISSUE WOULD NOT BE
BROUGHT UP AGAIN, THEY ARE NOW INFORMED THAT LEFTISH
SOCIALIST ELECTORAL LEAGUE (SV) PARLIAMENTARY LEADER
FINN GUSTAVSEN WILL PUT THE QUESTION TO THE GOVERNMENT
IN THE STORTING ON MARCH 5.

2. WITH ISSUE THEREUPON RESURRECTED MINISTER SAID
GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO ESTABLISH FORMAL INQUIRY GROUP
TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT ON THE CHARGES CONTAINED
IN CAPT. HELLEBUST'S THESIS. GROUP WILL PROBABLY CONSIST OF
FORMER STORTING (PARLIAMENT) REPRESENTATIVE AND MEMBER
OF STORTING'S BOARD OF PRESIDENTS HAAKON JOHNSEN; DR.
MAGNE SKODVIN, PROFESSOR OF MODERN HISTORY AT OSLO
UNIVERSITY; AND FORMER SUPREME COURT JUDGE AND NOW
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PARLIAMENTARY OMBUDSMAN, ANDREAS OLAI SCHEI. FRYDENLUND

SAID GROUP'S SELECTION AND AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IS
NOT YET FINAL.

3. FRYDENLUND SAID HE THOUGHT INVESTIGATION WOULD NOT
CAUSE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES. HE SAID MUCH OF THE
INFORMATION ON LORAN C AND OMEGA CONTAINED IN HELLEBUST'S
PAPER HAS BEEN KNOWN BEFORE AND THAT HELLEBUST'S CHARGES THAT
MATTER HAD BEEN MISHANDLED BY GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT HOLD UP UNDER IN-
VESTIGATION.
HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BECOME NECESSARY TO MAKE
THE HELLEBUST ARTICLE PUBLIC BUT THAT DECISION WOULD
BE MADE AFTER INQUIRY GROUP HAD PUT FORWARD IT S FINDINGS.

4. COMMENT: THIS LEFTISH EFFORT IS LIKELY TO CAUSE THE GOVERNMENT
SOME DISCOMFORT AND WILL ONCE AGAIN GIVE THE LEFT A CHANCE
TO TAKE SHOTS ALSO AT NATO AND THE US. THE SELECTION OF THE PROPOSED

INQUIRY GROUP WOULD, HOWEVER, SEEM TO ASSURE CAREFUL AND SOBER
OFFICIAL HANDLING OF THE MATTER, FOR GOVERNMENT HAS CHOSEN FOR
THE TASK THOUGHTFUL, EXPERIENCED AND HIGHLY RESPECTED GROUP
OF INDIVIDUALS.

5. FOR DEPARTMENT, PLEASE PASS STATE 031369 AND STATE
030402 TO USMISSION NATO. EMBASSY HAS REPEATED REFS
C, D, AND E.
BYRNE

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